

~~TOP SECRET COPSE~~

M45

New York-Moscow
1944
No. 824 (7 June)

To Victor [VICTOR].

Your no. 3310:

1. I conversed with Charist (^{ky}NIKIN) about the DESIATKA^a; accord-
ing to] his account the DESIATKA is conscientious with the exception
of Ruby [RUBIN]. Relative to the drinking bout we are sending a résumé
by Charist. There have been no other cases [or: incidents], I shall
get together before long [with] R. and IRA separately?.....from
their? details. I shall telegraph the results.

According to Charist's account right now Artemius [ARTIM] and
Gregory [GREGORY] are living together with girl students they made
the acquaintance of on the steamer. Charist bore me to raise the
question again of his wife's coming inasmuch as the DESIATKA is sup-
posed to stay? here at least a year more. For the time being the
DESIATKA is asking permission to send telegrams and parcels to [their]
families by designated?^b addressees, in order that your people may
intercept them and deliver them to the addressees. Telegraph.

2. By post I am sending a memorandum [or: report] [in] which I
shall adopt the following conventions^c:

R. the Plant [RUKO]^d,

ZH. decipherment [RASHCHIBIVKA][,]

YU. editorial staff [or: office] [REDAKTSIYA],

D. the Factory [FABRIKA]^e,

CH. the Neighbor [SOSED]^f,

SH. cover [PRIKRYTIYE],

~~TOP SECRET COPSE~~

~~TOP SECRET CORPSE~~

- W. sound-recording apparatus [ZVUCHOZAPIS¹IVAYUKIKHAYA
APPARATURA],
- X. eavesdropping [POKHUSHIVANIYE],
- Y. personnel of the Office (ASOSTAV¹ KONTOR¹)²,
- Z. the Syndicate [SINDIKAT]³,
- AA. courier guard [? courier-guard or courier's guard?;
KURIER(AV) OHRANA],
- BB. surveillance [NABLIUDENIYE],
- CC. the Office [KONTORA]⁴,
- DD. conspiracy [or: conspirativeness; KUMPIRATSIYA],
- EE. cipher clerk [SHIFROVAL'SHIK],
- FF. worker [RABOTNIK]⁵.

439

END [END]

7 June

¹Previously rendered: the Ten. This translation, while justifiable (see below), is misleading, for it tends to suggest that the DEKATKA was necessarily composed of just ten people. Actually, its quantitative reference may be no stronger than that of, say, "the Four of Clubs" or "Eight Ball". A translation of the definition of DEKATKA in the Folkovaya Slovar⁶ follows; English words for the various meanings are added in brackets:

ДЕКАТКА. 1. f. 1. The figure 10 (coll.) [a ten]. || The designation of various objects numbered with this figure (coll.), e.g., billiard ball no. 10 [the ten (ball)], tramcar, autobus no. 10 [number 10]. || A school mark denoted by this figure (school etc.) [a ten]. 2. A playing card having ten pips [the ten, a ten, a/the ten-spot]. 3. A ten-ruble note or coin (coll.) [like our tenner, ten-spot]. 4. A launch with ten sails (naut.).

However, speaking in favor of the quantitative interpretation is the use of DEKATKA. Its meanings parallel those of DEKATKA; it can mean

~~TOP SECRET CORPSE~~

